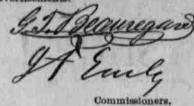


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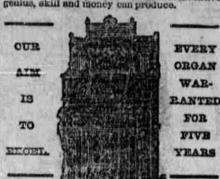
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A CHIVALRIC Kentuckian named Jo. Bell near Owensboro, the other day immortalized himself by thrashing a woman. It was not his motr-er-in-law, or his wife, but another man's wife. The other man's wife ought to thrash her husband if he does not thrush Jo.

PARKER (Dummy) McCombs, the deaf and dumb negro who killed Rob Carey a short time ago, was tried and acquitted in Hopkinsville on the 23rd ult.

J. RIDER HAGGARD's brother is about to issue a book at Madagascar. The people of the United States have the consolation of knowing that the quarrantine against foreign seaports will be rigidly enforced.

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Liniment Then suddenly, like the notes of some deep throated bird, her rounded voice rang out in soug so wildly sweet, and yet with so cerie and sad a refrain, that it made the very blood stand still. Up, up soared the golden notes, that seemed to melt far away, and then to grow

again and travel on, laden with all the sor-row of the world and all the despair of the lost. It was a marvelous song, but I had not time to listen to it properly. However, I got the words of it afterward, and here is a translation of its burden, so far as it admits of boing translated at all:

SORAIS' SONG. As a desolate bird that through darkness its lost

way is winging, hand that is helplessly raised when Death's sickle is swinging,
So's life! aye, the life that lends passion

breath to my singing. I's the nightingale's song that is full of a sweet

ness unspoken,
s a spirit unbarring the gates of the skies for a to is love! aye, the love that shall fall when his

As the tramp of the legions when trampets their challenge are sending.

As the shout of the storm god when lightnings

the black sky are rending, So is power; aye, the power that shall lie in the So short is our life; yet with space for all things

to forsake us, A bitter delusion, a dream from which naught can awake us, Till Death's dogging footsteps at morn or at eve

o...ill o'ertake us REFRAIN.

Ob, the world is fair at the dawning-dawningdawning, But the red sun sinks in blood, the red sun sinks in blood. I only wish that I could write down the music too.

"Now, Curtis, now," I whispered, when she began the second verse, and turned my back.
"Nyleptha," he said—for my nerves were so much on the stretch that I could hear every word, low as it was spoken, even through Sorais' divine notes—"Nyleptha, I must speak with thee this night; upon my life I must

with thee this night; upon my life I must. Say me not nay, eh, say me not nay!"

"How can I speak with theel" she answered, looking fixedly before her; "queens are not like other people. I am surrounded and watched."

"Listen, Nyleptha, thus: I will be before the statue of Rademas in the great hall at midnight. I have the countersign and can pace in. Macumas ha will be there to keep the status of the status of the countersign and can pace in. Macumas ha will be there to keep the status of the status of the status of the countersign and can pace in.

guard, and with him the Eule. Oh, come, my queen; deny me not."
"It is not seemly," she nourmured; "and to-

Just then the music began to die in the last

vail of the refrain, and Sorais slowly turned

her round.

"I will be there," said Nyleptha, hurriedly;
'on thy life see that thou fail me not."

CHAPTER XVI.

BEFORE THE STATUE. It was night-dead night-and the silence lay on the Frowning City like a cloud. Secretly, as evil doers, Bir Henry Curtis, Umslopogaas and myself threaded our way through the passages towards a by entrance to the great throne chamber. Once we were met by the flerce, ruttling challenge of the sentry. I gave the countersign and the man grounded his spear and let us pass. Also, we were officers of the queen's body

come and go unquestioned. We gained the hall in safety. So empty and so still was it that even when we had passed, the sound of our footsteps yet echoed up the lofty walls, vibrating faintly and still more faintly against the cavera roof, like ghosts of the footsteps of dead men haunting the place that once they trod,

guard, and in that capacity had a right to

It was an cerie spot, and it oppressed me. The moon was full, and threw great pencil; and patches of light through the high, windowless openings in the walls, that lay pure and beautiful upon the blackness of the marble floor, like white flowers on a coffin. One of these silver arrows fell upon the statue of the sleeping Rademas, and of the angel form bent over him, illumining it, and a small circle round it, with a soft, clear light, reminding me of that which Catholics illumine the altars of their cathedrals.

Here by the statue we took our stand and waited-Sir Henry and I close together, Umalopognas some paces off in the darkness, so that I could only just make out his towering outline leaning on the outline of an ax.

So long did we wait that I almost fell usleep resting against the cold marble, but was suddenly aroused by hearing Cartis give a quick, catching breath. Then from far, far far away there came a little sound, as though the statues that lined the walls were whispering to each other some message of the ages, It was the faint sweep of a lady's dress.

Nearer it grew, and nearer yet. We could see a figure steal from patch to patch of moon ight, and even hear the soft fall of sandaled feet. Another second and I saw the black silhouette of the old Zulu raise its arm in mute salute, and Nyleptha was before us. Oh, how beautiful she looked as she paused a moment just within the circle of the moon-

light! Her hand was pressed upon her heart, and her white bosom heaved beneath it. Round her head a broidered scarf was loosely thrown, partially shadowing the perfect face, and thus rendering it even more lovely; for beauty, dependent as it is to a certain extent upon the imagination, is never so beautiful as when it is half hid. There she stood, radiant but half doubting, stately and yet or sweet. It was but a moment; but I then and there fell in love with her myself, and have remained so to this bour; for indeed she looked more like an angel out of heaven than a loving, passionate, mortal woman. Low we bowed before her, and then she spoke.

"I have come," she whispered, "but it was at great risk. 'Ye know not how I am watched. The priests watch me. Sorais watches me with those great eyes of hers. Washington. Now let the quiet and peaceable denizens of the national capitol listen for old fashioned Tar heel reels and cotillious.

My very guards are spies upon me. Nasta watches me too. Oh, let him be careful? and she stamped her foot. "Let him be careful; I am a woman, and therefore hard to drive. Ay, and I am a queen, too, and If you are bothered with "hard lest in place of giving him my hand I take times" and want to learn how to his head;" and she ended the outburst with a little sob and then smiled up at us bewitchingly and laughed.

Thou didst bid me come hither, my Lord Incubu" (Curtis had taught her toscall him "Doubtless it is about business of the state, for I know that thou art ever full of d plans for my welfare and my people's. So, even as a queen should I have come, though I greatly fear the dark alone;" and again she laughed and gave him a glance from her gray eyes.

At this point I thought it wise to move a little, since secrets "of the state" should not be made public property, but she would not let me go far, peremptorily stopping me within five yards or so, saying that she feared surprise. So it came to pass that, however unwillingly, I heard all that passed.

"Thou knowest, Nyleptha," said Sir Henry "that it was for none of these things that I asked thee to me at this lonely place. Nyleptha, waste not the time in pleasantry, but listen to me, for-I love thee."

As he said the words I saw her face break up, as it were, and change. The coquetry went out of it, and in its place there shone a great light of love, which seemed to glorify it, and make it like that of the marble ange overhead. I could not help thinking that it must have been a touch of prophetic instinct which made the long dead Rademas limn in the features of the angel of his inspiring vision so strange a likeness of his own descendant. Sir Henry also must have observed and been struck by the likeness, for, catching the look upon Nyleptha's face, he glanced quickly from it to the moonlit statue, and then back again at his beloved.

Thou sayest thou dost love me," she said, in a low voice, "and thy voice rings true; but how am I to know that thou dost speak the truth? Though," she went on, with proud humility, and in the stately third person which is so largely used by the Zu-Vendi, "I be as nothing in the eyes of my lord"—and she courtesied towards him—"who comes from among a wonderful people, to whom my people are but children, yet here am I a queen and a leader of men, and if I would go to a battle a hundred thousand spears shall sparkle in my train like stars glimmering down the path of the bent moon. And although my beauty be a little thing in the eyes of my lord" -and she lifted her broidered skirt and courtesied again—"yet here among my own peo-ple am I held right fair; and ever since I was a woman the great lords of my kingdom have made quarrel concerning me, as though, for-sooth," sie added, with a flash of passion, "I were a deer to be pulled down by the hungriest wolf, or a horse to be sold to the highest bidder. Let my lord pardon me if I weary my lord, but it bath pleased my lord to say that he loves me, Nyleptha, a queen of the Zu-Vendi; and therefore would I say, that though my love and my hand be not much

to my lord, yet to me are they all."
"Oh!" she cried, with a sudden and thrilling change of voice, and modifying her dismified mode of address-"oh, how can I know that thou lovest but me? How can I know that thou will not weary of me and seek thine own place again, leaving me desolate? Who is there to tell me but that thou lovest some other woman, some fair woman unknown to me, but who yet draws breath beneath this same moon that shines on me to-night? Tell me how am I to know?" And she clasped her hands and stretched them out towards him.

and looked appealingly into his face.

"Nyleptha," answered Sir Henry, adopting the Eu-Vendi way of speech, "I have told thee that I leve thee; how am I to tell thee how much I leve thee! Is there, then, a measure the Lu-Vendi way of speech. I have told ther that I leve thee; he have not like how an I to tell thee how much I leve thee; he have a measure for love! Yet will I try. I say not that I have never looked upon another woman with favor, but this I my, that I love thee with all my strength; that I love thee with all my strength; that I love thee with all favor, but this I my, that I love thee with all my strength; that I love thee with all favor, and shall love thee sill I grow cold in death, and en and on forever; I my that thy death, and en and on forever; I my that thy refer is game to my ear, and thy touch as

rater to a thirsty land; that when thou art ere the world is beautiful, and when I see thee not it is as though the light was dead. Dh, Nyleptha, I will never leave thee! Here and now, for thy dear sake, I will forget my people and my father's house; yea, I renounce them all. By thy side will I live, Nyloptha, and at thy side will I die."

He paused and gazed at her earnestly, but the bung her head like a lily, and said never a



Before the statue. "Look!" he went on, pointing to the statue a which the moonlight played so brightly. Thou seest that angel woman who rests her hand upon the forehead of the sleeping man; and thou seest how at her touch his flames up and shines out through his flesh, even as a lamp at the touch of the fire; so is it with me and thee, Nyleptha. Thou hast awakened my soul and called it forth, and now, Nyleptha, it is not mine, not mine, but thine, and thine only. There is no more for me to say; in thy hands is my life." And he

teaned back against the pedestar of the statue, looking very pale, and his eyes shining, but proud and handsome as a god.

Slowly, slowly she raised her head, and fixed her wonderful eyes, all alight with the greatness of her passion, full upon his face, as though to read his very soul. Then at last she spoke, low indeed, but clearly as a silver

caned back against the pedestal of the

"Of a truth, weak woman that I am, I da believe thee. Ill will be the day for thee, and for me also, if it be my fate to learn that I have believed a lie. And now hearken unto ne, O man, who hath wandered here from far o steal my heart and make me all thin; own. I put my hand upon thine hand thus, and thus I, whose lips have never kissed before, do his thee on the brow; and now by my hand, and by that first and holy kiss, ay, by my people's weal and by my throne that like enough I shall lose for thee, by the name of my high house, by the sacred stone and by the eternal majesty of the Sun, I swear that for thee will I live and die. And I swear that I will love thee and thee only till death, ay, and beyond-if, as thou sayest, there be a be-yond-and that thy will shall be my will, and thy ways my ways.

"Oh, see, see, my lord! thou knowest not how humble is she who loves; I, who am a queen, I kneel before thee; even at thy feet I do my homage;" and the lovely impassioned the cold marble before him. And after that I really do not know what happened, for I could stand it no longer, and cleared off to refresh myself with a little of old Umslopgaas' society, leaving them to settle it their own way, and a very long time they were about it.

Some three-quarters of an hour afterward the "pair of doves" came strolling toward us, Curtis looking slightly silly, and Nylep:ha remarking calmly that the moonlight made very pretty effects on the marble. Then, for the was in a most gravious mood, she took my band and said that I was "her lord's" dear friend, and therefore most dear to her-not a word for my own sake, you see. Next she lifted Umslopogaas' ax and examined it curiously, saying significantly as she did so that be might soon have cause to use it in defense

After that the podded prettily to us all, and easting one tender glance at her lover, glided off into the darkness like a beautiful vision. When we got back to our quarters, which we did without accident, Curtis asked me, jocularly, what I was thinking about.

"I am wondering," I answered, "on what principle it is arranged that some people should find beautiful queens to fall in love with them, while others find nobody at all, or worse than nobody, and I am also wender ing how many brave men's lives this night's work will cost." It was rather nasty of me. perhaps, but somehow all the feelings do not evaporate with age, and I could not kelp beng a little j alous of my old friend's luck. Vanity, my sons, vanity of vanities!

On the following morning Good was informed of the happy occurrence, and positively rippled with smiles that, originating omewhere about the mouth, slowly traveled up his face like the rings in a duck pond, till they flowed over the brim of his eyeglass and went where sweet smiles go. The fact of the matter, however, was that not only was Good rejoiced about the thing on its own merits, but also for personal reasons. He adored Sorais quite as carnestly as Sir Henry adored Nyleptha, and his adoration had not altogether prospered. Indeed, it had seemed to him and to me also that the dark Cleopatra like queen favored Curtis in her own curious inscrutable way much more than Good. Therefore it was a relief to him to learn that his unconscious rival was permanently and satisfactorily attached in another direction. His face fell a little, however, when he was told that the whole thing was to be kept as secret as the dead, above all from Sorais for the present, inasmuch as the political convilment at the moment would be altogether too great to face, and would very possibly, if prematurely made, shake Nyleptha from her

That n orning we again attended in the throne hall, and I could not help smiling to myself when I compared the visit to our last, and reflecting that if the walls could speak

they would have strange tales to tell.

What actresses women are! There, high upon her golden throne, draped in her blazoued "kaf" or robe of state, sat the fair Nyleptha; and when Sir Henry came in a little late, dressed in the full uniform of an officer of her guard, and humbly bent himself before her, she merely acknowledged his salute with a careless nod and turned her head coldly aside. It was a very large court, for not only did the earemony of the signing of the laws attra a many outside of those whose duty it was to attend, but also the rumor that Nasta was going to publicly ask the band of Nyleptha in marriage had gone abroad, with the result that the great hall was crowded to its utmost capacity. There were our friends the priests in force, headed by Agon, who regarded us with a vindictive

ach law it was hended to the queens to sign, whereon the trumpets blared out and the queens guard grounded their spears with a crash in salute. This reading and signing of the laws took a long time, but at last it came to an end, the last one reciting that "whereas certain distinguished strangers, etc.," and pro-ceeding to coufer on the three of us the rank of "lords," together with certain military commands and large estates bestowed by the When it was read the trump blared and the spears clashed down as u but I saw some of the lords turn and wh but I saw some of the lords turn and whisper to each other, while Nasta ground his teeth. They did not like the favor that was shown to us, which, under all the circumstances, was not perhaps quantural.

Then there came a pause, and Nasta stepped forward, and bowing humbly, though with no humility in his eye, craved a boon at the hands of the Queen Nyleptha.

Nyleptha turned a little pale, but bowed graciously, and prayed the "well beloved lord" to speak on, whereon in a few straightforward soldier like work to exhall her took learned.

forward, soldier like words he asked her hand in marriage.
Then, before she could find words to an-

wer, the High Priest Agon took up the tale, and in a speech of real eloquence and power pointed out the many advantages of the pro-posed alliance—how it would consolidate the kingdom; for Nasta's dominions, of which he was virtually king, were to Zu-Vendis much what Scotland used to be to England; how it would gratify the wild mountaineers and be popular among the coldiery, for Nasta was a famous general; how it would set her dynasty firmly on the throne, and would gain the blessing and approval of the "Sun," i. e., of the office of high priest, and so on. Many of his arguments were undoubtedly valid; and there was, looking at it from a political point of view, everything to be said for the marriage. But, unfortunately, it is difficult to play the game of politics with the persons of young and lovely many as though they were play the game of politics with the persons of young and lovely queens as though they were ivory effigies of themselves on a chess board. Nyleptha's face, while Agon spouted away, was a perfect study; she smiled, indeed, but beneath the smile it set like a stone, and her eyes began to flash ominously.

At last he stopped, and she prepared herself to answer. Before she did so, however, Sornis leaned toward her and said, in a voice so ciently loud for me to catch what she said, "Bethink thee well, my sister, ere thou dost speak, for methinks that our thrones may hang upon thy words."

Nyleptha made no answer, and with a sirug and a smile, Sorais leened back again

"Of a truth a great honor has been done to me," she said, "that my poor hand should not only have been asked in marriage, but that Agon here should be so swift to pronounce the blessing of the Sun upon my union. Methinks that in another minute he would have wed us fast ere the bride had said her say. Nasta, I thank thee, and I will bethink me of thy words, but now as yet I have no mind for marriage; that is a cup of which none know the taste until they begin to drink it. Aga'n I thank thee, Nasta," and she made as though

she would rise. The great lord's face turned almost zi black as his beard with fury, for he knew that the words amounted to a final refusal of his suit.

"Thanks be to the queen for her gracicus words," he said, restraining himself with difficulty and looking anything but gratoful, "my heart shall surely treasure them. And now I crave another boon, namely, the royal leave to withdraw myself to my own poor cities in the north until such time as the queen shall say my suit may or yea. May-hap," he added, with a sneer, "the queen will be pleased to visit me there, and to bring with her these stranger lords," and he scowled darkly toward us. "It is but a poor country and a rough, but we are a hardy race of mountaineers, and there shall be gathered 30,000 swordsmen to shout a welcome to her."

This speech, which was almost a declaration of rebellion, was received in complete silence, but Nyleptha flushed up and an-

swered it with spirit.

"Oh, surely, Nasta, I will come, and the strange lords in my train, and for every man of thy monataineers who calls thee prince will I bring two from the lowlands who call me queen, and we will see which is the stanchest breed. Till then farewell."

The trumpets blared out, the queens rose, and the great assembly broke up in murmuring confusion, and for myself I went home with a heavy heart, foreseeing civil war. After this there was quiet for a few weeks.

Curtis and the queen did not often meet, and exercised the utmost caution not to allow the true relation in which they stood to each other to leak out; but, do what they would, rumors as bard to trace as a buzzing fly in a dark room, and yet quite as audible, began to bum round and round, and at last to settle on her throne.

> CHAPTER XVII. THE STORM BREAKS.

And now it was that the trouble which at first had been but a cloud as large as a man's hand began to loom very black and big upon our horizon, namely, Sorais' preference for Bir Henry. I saw the storm drawing nearer and nearer; and so, poor fellow, did he. The affection of so levely and highly placed a woman was not a thing that could in a ceneral way be considered a calamity by any man; but, situated as Curtis was, it was a grievous burden to bear.

To begin with, Nyleptha, though altogether

harming, was, it must be admitted, of a

rather jealous disposition, and was somewhat ant to visit on her lover's head her indignation at the marks of what Alphonse would have called the "distinguished consideration" with which her royal sister favored him. Then the enforced secrecy of his relations to Nyleptha prevented Curtis from taking some opportunity of putting a stop, or trying to put a stop, to this false condition of affairs, by telling Sorais, in a casual but confidential by teiling Serais, in a casual but confidential way, that he was going to marry her sister. A third sting in Sir Henry's honey was that he knew that Good was honestly and sincerely attached to the ominous looking, but most attractive, Lady of the Night. Indeed, poor Bougwan was wasting himself to a shadow of his fat and jelly self about her, his face of his fast and jelly self about her, his face getting so this that his sysplam would scarcely stick is it; while she, with a sort of careless coquetry, just gave him encouragement enough to keep him going, binking, no doubt, that he might be useful as a stalking horse. I tried to give him a hint, in as delicate a way as I could, but he flew into a fuff nd would not listen to me; so I determined to let fil alone, for foar of making it worse. Poor Good! he really was very ludicrous in his distress, and wout in for all series of absurdities, under the belief that he was nel-vaneing his suit. One of them was the writing—with the assistance of one of the grave and reverend asignious who hastmeted us, and who, whatever may have been the measure of his scudition, did not understand how to soan a line—of a most interminable Zu-Vendi love song, of which the continually recurring refrain was something about "I will kine these; ob yes, I with kine these? Now among the Eu-Vendi it is a common and most harmless thing for young men to greto let ill alone, for fear of making it worse.